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Maine Pre-Apprenticeship Program FAQs for Students/Sponsors, 2013

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Maine Pre-Apprenticeship Program

FAQs for Students/Sponsors

What Is Student Pre-Apprenticeship?

Student Pre-Apprenticeship is a pathway for high school juniors and seniors, aged 16 or older, to enter into apprenticeship training. Pre-apprentices must be full-time students, in good academic standing who are able to work part-time for a registered employer/sponsor and who intend to become full-time registered apprentices after graduation.

What Is Registered Apprenticeship?

Registered Apprenticeship (RA) is a nationally-recognized, occupational training program provided by industry employers. Registered apprentices learn specific occupational skills on-the-job and supplement their learning by taking formal classes, part-time and usually at the college level, throughout their program.

Apprenticeship programs last from one to five years depending on the difficulty of the occupation. Apprentice wages increase as they gain skill proficiency and successfully complete courses. At completion, most apprentices are earning top wages in their field and have attained a college degree. Once you become a full-time registered apprentice, the Maine Apprenticeship program pays up to 50 percent of the tuition cost of required courses, and, in many cases, the employer /sponsors pay part of the other 50 percent. Apprentices who matriculate into a Trades & Technology Occupations (TTO) Degree at a Maine Community College can earn up to 24 college credits just for their on-the-job learning component and are given up to four years to complete an associate's degree.

Each Registered Pre-Apprenticeship Program includes:

- Formalized selection process
- Outline of the program
- Formalized evaluation system
- Pre-determined length of program

Why Should I Consider Student Pre-Apprenticeship?

Some of Maine's best-paid employees learned their skills through registered apprenticeship. As a Pre-Apprentice, you get first-hand experience of a particular occupation when you begin the formal on-the-job learning portion of the registered program during your junior and senior year. Pre-Apprentices can carry up to 1,000 hours of on-the-job experience into their registered apprenticeship program upon graduation. Some Pre-Apprentices even start taking their college level instruction requirements while still in their senior year of high school.

How Do I Enter Student Pre-Apprenticeship?

In Maine, Student Pre-Apprenticeship is collaboration between the apprentice, the school, the employer and the program. Students enter into a formal agreement with their employer/sponsor that is approved by the school, the program and, in some cases, the parent or guardian. Your school Co-Op or CTE instructor works with the Maine Apprenticeship Program to identify apprenticeship sponsors in your area and to facilitate entry into the program.

What Is Expected of Pre-Apprentices?

Because sponsors invest considerable time and money in apprentice training they are interested in students with genuine interests, aptitudes and abilities for the particular occupation. Only students who are committed to learning new skills both on-the-job in class will be a good fit for the program. Most importantly, sponsors are looking for reliable, responsible, self-directed learners who are eager to learn hands-on and can successfully apply academic knowledge, such as math for blueprint-drawing, science for veterinary lab work, and computer skills for tracking production orders. Registered Apprenticeship is a long-term commitment to the employer/sponsor.

What If My Employer Is Not An Apprenticeship Sponsor?

If an employer is not already a sponsor of registered apprenticeship, but expresses an interest in hiring and training you as an apprentice, have the employer contact the Maine Apprenticeship Program at 207-623-7974 and staff will assist the employer with the sponsor registration process.